



# Simcoe County Special Needs Strategy... Clearing the Path to Potential

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With Spring just around the corner, the Special Needs Strategy Leadership table continues its work on the implementation of key elements of plans submitted for both Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) and Integrated Rehabilitation (IR). This is the work of transforming a very complex and important system to better address the needs that our families and youth have expressed to us so clearly. After completing, and receiving endorsement for both plans in the first round of approvals we have had input from the Ministry around CSP implementation markers which will soon become publically available. We anticipate further Ministry direction around implementation and at the same time have done some thinking with the leadership table to determine work that is locally possible that will prime the system for change. There is commitment within the Simcoe County leadership table to continue to focus on what can be currently addressed to set the stage for the transformational change that needs to take place in order to realize the SNS plans

## What has happened...

In the spirit of keeping forward momentum and meeting implementation markers the SNS leadership table has been able to address the following work:

- Establishing a local vision and goals
- Drafting an initial role description for Coordinated Service Planners
- Establishing an Memorandum of Understanding for services that is embedded in the current Children's Treatment Network (CTN) partnership agreement
- Developing an initial engagement plan that will support the table in getting diverse input as work in specific areas continues
- Establishing a clinical task group with approved terms of reference

Karen Hirstwood, ED, Catulpa Community Support Services and Rhonda Burke-Joraszik, RVH, have stepped up to co-chair and establish the Clinical Task Group. As well Jennifer McPhee has been hired as Project Manager supporting both the York and Simcoe tables. The addition of these positions to provide leadership and support process has been of great value in moving ahead, thank you to those who continue to step up and give time and energy!

## Next Steps...

- Training events that build capacity for upcoming changes will be delivered with year end funds in March and offered to the Network as appropriate. Look for opportunities around privacy in the shared record and CANS as examples.
- The Clinical Task group is focused on the development of a work plan that will see the structure of planning and key work items more clearly defined. Areas of focus include, the system wide usage of the shared record, the role of Community of Practice and the development of tools such as an integrated plan and intake best practices.
- The Leadership Table continues to oversee all SNS related work and will remain engaged with the Ministries and responsive to input and direction as available.
- CTN continues work on operational elements of the CSP plan in order to ensure the provision of increased service capacity



## A vision for Simcoe County...

In January the initial vision for SNS in Simcoe County was approved and it is... *Clearing the path to potential!* This vision is meant to inspire and keep us focused on the destination in the implementation work to come. It encompasses the idea of the system integrating to allow a seamless approach to service so that providers in the system can contribute first and foremost to the outcomes of children, youth and families. It also speaks to the idea that we are focusing on progress towards a more integrated system and know that we will have to learn and grow to truly transform services, as our tables have adopted the hashtag is *progressnotperfection!* Also reflecting this are the corresponding goals that have been approved by the table:

- Is the system simpler now than it was yesterday?
  - Have we decreased stress for families, providers, etc.
- Is the system more resource efficient than it was yesterday?
  - Are all resources accessed and most resource going to work with children, youth and families?
- Is the system more effective than it was yesterday?
  - Are outcomes improved?
- Are families happier than they were yesterday?
  - Are families and youth satisfied with services?

These goals allow us to think about what we will see, hear and feel as transformation and change begins to occur.

*'If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you.'*  
Unknown

Please feel free to contact your planning table co-chairs at for more information.

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